

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04697 190732Z

12

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

PM-03 PRS-01 SAM-01 SP-02 /039 W

----- 058842

R 190632Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8701

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4697

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SY

SUBJECT: ASAD'S OPPONENTS CONTINUE ORGANIZING

1. EMBOFF TALKED WITH MFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR SHOUFI RECENTLY AND LEARNED THAT OPPOSITION HAS NO "IMMINENT" PLANS TO ATEMPT UNSEAT PRES. ASAD. SHOUFI SAID THAT VARIOUS OPPOSITION GROUPS TRYING TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES INTO MORE EFFECTIVE "AMALGAM." SHOUFI CLAIMED THAT MOST OF THE CIRITCISM OF ASAD HE HEARING THESE DAYS WAS COMING FROMALAWITES, "BY RATIO OF FOUR TO ONE." AND HE ADDED THAT THESE WERE ALWATIES WITH "POLITICAL INFLUENCE." HE STATED THAT ALWATIES BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WITH THREAT OF SECTARIAN CIVIL STRIFE IN SYRIA DIRECTED AGAINST THEIR COMMUNITY BECAUSE THEY SPREAD THROUGHOUT MAJOR CITIES AND COULD EASILY BE TAKEN AS HOSTAGES. SHOUFI SAID ASAD'S OPPONENTS EXERTING EXTRA EFFORTS TO ATTRACT ALAWITES INTO THEIR ORGANIZATION BECAUSE THEY WISH TO AVOID SECTARIAN VIOLENCE AND REASSURE ALWATIES THAT OPPOSITION TO ASAD REGIME NOT BEING CONSTRUCTED ON SECTARIAN BASIS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 04697 190732Z

2. COMMENT: SHOUFI'S REMARK THAT REGIME'S OPPONENTS

TRYING TO LINK UP AND SECURE ALLEGIANCE OF ALAWITE
ELEMENTS REFLECTS ASAD'S PAST SUCCESS IN KEEPING HIS
OPPOSITION DIVIDED; IT PRESENTLY UNCLEAR HOW CREDIBLE
NEW OPPOSITION FRONT MAY BECOME.
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPPOSITION PARTIES, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC04697
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760276-1105
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760745/aaaabnou.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASAD'S OPPONENTS CONTINUE ORGANIZING
TAGS: PINS, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006